



## **ACE: Helping Local and Tribal Governments Save Money and Resources**

When Governor Jim Doyle came into office he inherited a \$3.2 billion deficit. The product of nearly two decades of wasteful spending and mismanagement, it was the largest deficit in state history and the largest per capita deficit in the country.

To get Wisconsin back on track, Governor Doyle has balanced two consecutive state budgets without raising taxes, and worked to streamline outdated government processes that are not responsive to the needs of Wisconsin's citizens today.

Under his direction, the State sold 1,000 fleet cars, turned off unnecessary cell phones, and re-bid costly contracts in order to eliminate government waste.

But Governor Doyle understands that these changes alone will not provide Wisconsin's citizens with the tax relief they deserve.

That's why in March 2005, he announced the Accountability, Consolidation, and Efficiency (ACE) Initiative – a comprehensive plan to further reform state government operations and save taxpayers up to \$200 million over the next four years.

ACE combines best business practices with the common sense approach families use to lower their household costs without sacrificing quality.

The State Bureau of Procurement is using these methods to develop new statewide contracts that successfully leverage the State's full purchasing power by adopting the same principles that citizens use everyday: buy in bulk when possible; push for the last dollar in savings; don't buy unnecessary bells and whistles; and always search for the best deal.

This philosophy has already resulted in nearly \$80 million in savings across seven procurement categories. And these savings are not limited to state government.

Local and Tribal governments may also purchase off of state contracts – giving them the full benefit of the State's purchasing power on everything from janitorial supplies to computer equipment.

The Wisconsin Department of Administration's (DOA) Division of Intergovernmental Relations is taking the lead to provide local and Tribal governments targeted to their needs, and help them participate in Governor Doyle's ACE Initiative savings.

A complete listing of all the current state contracts is available on the State's VendorNet Web site at <http://vendornet.state.wi.us>.

VendorNet includes information regarding all state contracts, pricing, and vendors. Local and Tribal governments do not need to register to use VendorNet, and there is no fee associated with looking at or utilizing state contracts.

More information about Governor Doyle's ACE Initiative and how it can benefit local and Tribal governments is available on the Wisconsin Partnership Web site at <http://wisconsinpartnership.wi.gov>.

### ***Other cost-saving services available***

Beyond ACE, there are a variety of other programs and services that DOA's Division of Enterprise Technology offers that can assist local and Tribal governments including:

- BadgerNet (Internet and networking services)
- Publishing services
- Web hosting
- Virtual employee training
- Phone services and rates

Local governments can also take part in programs such as the Length of Service Award Program (LOSA). LOSA is a pension program to benefit volunteer firefighters and emergency medical technicians.

DOA also helps local governments identify federal and state grant assistance, loans, and technical assistance opportunities.

For more information about any these programs please call Dawn Vick, Intergovernmental Liaison in DOA's Division of Intergovernmental Relations at (608)266-7043.

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